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24 February 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : March Senior Staff Meeting

1. The next monthly meeting of the Director's Senior Staff will be held at 1030 hours, Monday, 3 March 1958, in the Director's Conference Room, 214 Administration Building.

2. It is requested that any items which you may wish to have placed on the agenda be sent to the undersigned, 229 Administration Building, by Thursday afternoon, 27 February 1958.



Assistant to the Director

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CONTACTS BY AGENCY PERSONNEL
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS

There have recently been several instances where classified information has been obtained by the press from within the Executive Branch of the Government. These "leaks" have been serious not only from the viewpoint of the irresponsibility of the act, but also in causing embarrassment with our allies. Perhaps most important of all, there has been information of value provided the Soviet Union.

In some of these cases this Agency has been involved, either as the subject of the information, as the possible source, or as the publisher of the report. As a consequence we are seriously concerned.

I want every officer of this Agency to have very clearly in mind his or her responsibility in any dealings, social or otherwise, with representatives of the press. These responsibilities are clearly prescribed in This regulation recognizes that there are some of you who may have social acquaintances among members of the press. It states that if any matter related to the Agency in any way, no matter how remote, arises in the course of a social meeting with a press representative, it will be promptly reported to the Special Assistant to the Director, Col. Grogan. It is also very clear in indicating that all official contacts with the press will be through Col. Grogan. I expect this regulation to be most strictly obeyed.

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As I am sure all of you have noted, my name and statements have occasionally appeared in the press. These are the inevitable results of the requirements of office, and cannot be avoided. However, I do not want anybody to make the mistake of interpreting these as any indication of a change in our policy in regard to press contacts. All contacts will be centralized in Col. Grogan's office, under my control.

I want it clearly understood by all that press contacts will be promptly reported, that nobody will discuss matters affecting this Agency with unauthorized individuals, and that all press inquiries will be referred to Col. Grogan. Failure to do so may result in severe disciplinary action--including termination.